

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 30-49 and 54-57 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art either alone or in combination doesn't show or teach "generating a hierarchical data structure configured to facilitate browsing content in the audio-visual program, the hierarchical data structure including a first structural part which stores the segment information and a distinct second structural part which stores segment group information defining first and second segment groups for the audio-visual program, each of the first and second segment groups defining a respective set of non-contiguous audio-visual segments which are selected from the plurality of audio\visual segments and identified in the segment group information by references to the corresponding segments in the segment information of the audio visual program, wherein said segment group information specifies a respective group type and a respective duration for each of said first and second segment groups, the respective group types indicating that the first and second segment groups represent respective first and second content summaries related to objects or events as depicted in the audio-visual program, and wherein the segment group information includes segment order information defining that (i) the audio-visual segments within the first segment group are ordered relative to each other according to a time sequence that is significant for the first content summary's representation of the corresponding events or objects in the audio-visual program and (ii) the audio-visual segments within the second segment group are not ordered relative to each other according to any time sequence that is significant for the second content summary's representation of the corresponding events or objects in the audio-visual program" in combination with other features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SIMON KE whose telephone number is (571)272-4062. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2174